



Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

ISSUE 163



BELGIUM V ENGLAND
14TH JULY 2018



FIFA WORLD CUP 2018 TRAVELLER TACTICS



PREPARATION

Check out the latest travel advice for Russia and information on the different regions, local laws and customs



HEALTHCARE

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is not valid in Russia, so it is essential that you take out travel insurance appropriate for all the activities you plan to do



FAN ID

Once you have an official ticket you will need to apply for a Fan ID. This replaces the need for a separate visa. You must apply for it before you travel



VISAS

If you do not have an official ticket you will need to apply for a visa to enter Russia. Allow plenty of time and make sure it covers the length of your stay



PASSPORT

Look after your passport and keep it in a safe place. If you're travelling on a visa, make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the visa expiry date. Take 2 copies of it and always keep one with you



MATCH TICKETS

Only purchase tickets from official suppliers. You will need a Fan ID linked to your ticket to enter a stadium



GETTING AROUND

Plan your journeys, Russia is a huge country and distances between cities can be vast. Official match ticket and Fan ID holders can apply for free travel on selected trains



ACCOMMODATION

You are required to register in every host city visited within 72 hours of arrival. Book accommodation in advance and check that your hotel or host has registered your stay in each destination



STAY UP TO DATE

Sign up for travel advice email alerts at gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/russia



BE RESPONSIBLE

Always follow the advice of local authorities and respect local laws and customs. Anti-social behaviour including excessive alcohol consumption will not be tolerated



IF THINGS GO WRONG

In the event of an emergency, call 112. For consular assistance, for example if you lose your passport, call +7 495 956 7200

#BeOnTheBall
gov.uk/russia2018



@fcotravel



@FCOtravel

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF FREE LIONS 163

...the free England fanzine produced and distributed by the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) as part of our Fans' Embassy service.

Belgium v England

Saint Petersburg Stadium

Saturday 14th July 2018

Kick-off 17:00, local time

England will probably play in WHITE.



Useful Numbers

Fans' Embassy Helpline:
+44 7956 121314

Fans' Embassy Helpline for fans on Russian mobiles:
+7 977 278 5820

England Supporters Club (FA):
+44 7970 146250

British Embassy in Moscow:
+7 495 956 7200

Emergency: 112



Contact Free Lions

E-mail: freelions@fsf.org.uk

Gifts & Postcards to:

Free Lions, c/o the FSF
1, Ashmore Terrace
Stockton Road
Sunderland
SR2 7DE

AND welcome to St Petersburg, for the match that no-one wanted to play in, the losers' World Cup final.

There are genuinely mixed feelings among the hardy few of us who have arrived in Russia's second city to see our team play their final 2018 World Cup fixture. Clearly there is disappointment at having fallen at the final hurdle before a second final appearance: so near, and yet so far.

But that disappointment is accompanied, and for many of us far outweighed, by a real sense of pride at what this young England squad has achieved. They have surpassed most expectations; how many of us wouldn't have gladly accepted a semi-final appearance before the tournament kicked off? And it has all been done with a great team spirit, some excellent performances and a sense of unity of purpose that has spread beyond the players and the coaching staff and affected the fans ourselves.

So, while it's true that we'd all rather be back at the Luzhniki this weekend rather than facing the prospect of a re-run of last month's Belgium B v England B fixture, let's see if we can focus on the positives, and regard this as a final opportunity to celebrate achievements, more than mourn shortcomings.

There are certainly worse locations than Saint Petersburg to be playing our final game; probably the most picturesque of Russia's host cities, it provides us with yet another chance to enjoy the remarkable Russian hospitality and superb organisation that we've become accustomed to over the last month or so. Spasiba, Russia!

As always, you can rely on the support, should you need it, of the FSF's fans' embassy service. We will be operating on the afternoon of Friday 13th July between 14:00 and 17:00, and on match day, Saturday 14th July, between 10:00 and 14:00, and we will be based at the tourist information office in Palace Square.

COVER STORY

Playing in a semi-final of the World Cup was trippy, scoring a spectacular free kick on six minutes was Trippier. The wing-back's night was to end in injury, however, carried off by medical staff and limping out of the tournament, a metaphor for his forlorn team-mates who were soon to follow.



IT WASN'T ME

The Free Lions fanzine is produced by the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), the national membership-based organisation for fans. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided in this fanzine, but can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by any one relying on its contents. None of the financial support

we have received to produce Free Lions impacts on what we put in it. Consequently, none of our supporters can be held in any way responsible for the contents of, nor the views expressed in, this fanzine.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to PA Images for the cover photo.

Free Lions is a team effort. This edition was edited by Kevin Miles and thanks are due to Phil Rowley; Clive Hetherington; Joe Hetherington; Harpreet Robertson; Thomas Smith; Violetta Vladimirovna; Pete Daykin; Luc Jones and Irina Borisova for all their efforts arranging printers and to Ashley Brown, for leaving most hotel receptionists unpunished on our little Russian adventure.



PRODUCES FREE LIONS

Website: www.fsf.org.uk

Email: freelions@fsf.org.uk

FSF helpline: +44 7956 121314

From Russian mobiles: +7 977 278 5820



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fans'
embassy



PRIDE AND BELIEF

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



IT'S coming home, was the cry. Well, not this time sadly, but what an adventure this summer has been for England and their loyal followers. Pride and belief, at least, have been restored to the nation's football ranks.

St Petersburg it is, rather than back-to-back matches at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, and a third place play-off with Belgium.

The 2-1 extra-time defeat by Croatia came in only England's third World Cup semi-final – they beat Portugal at Wembley in 1966 en route to victory there over West Germany in the one major tournament the Three Lions have won, but lost to the Germans on penalties in Turin 28 years ago.

Coach Zlatko Dalic led Croatia to their first World Cup final, in which they face France, after his side came from behind against an England team who began the game strongly.

Tottenham right-back Kieran Trippier scored his first England goal in only the fifth minute, but Croatia replied in the 68th minute through Inter Milan's Ivan Perisic and Juventus striker Mario Mandzukic struck the decisive blow four minutes into the second period of extra-time.

Croatia, of course, have done for England before. Steve "wally with a brolly" McClaren paid with his job – and, lest we forget, so did his assistant Terry Venables – when Slaven Bilic's side won 3-2 in an astonishing Wembley encounter that spelled the end of England's chances of qualifying for Euro 2008.

Whatever happened this time, boss Gareth Southgate – whose shoot-out failure in a Wembley semi-final against Germany shaped England's fate at Euro '96 with Venables in charge – was always going to be the "wonder in a waistcoat".

Former England right-back Gary Neville, speaking on ITV, said: "The first thing to say is, this team has taken us to a place we never imagined we'd get to. I said before the tournament that England never over-achieve, but this team have over-achieved getting to a semi-final and they can all be absolutely proud – they've taken the nation with them.

"We did say before the game that these lads had to take this opportunity now because it may never happen again. And all I hope, having seen them disappointed, upset and crying, is that they get another opportunity as good as the one they've had because that was a huge opportunity and I feel for them most because of that."

Ex-England striker Ian Wright said: "We have to be very proud of what the team have done up to this point. Yes, we've come up against easily the best team we've played in the tournament and we've come up a bit short, but what Gareth has done to bring this team this far is absolutely magnificent."

And Republic of Ireland assistant boss Roy Keane added: "I think Croatia deserved it at the end. As the game went on, they seemed to get stronger, they were more streetwise and had more composure. England gave two sloppy goals away. But credit to Gareth, I think he's been class throughout the whole tournament."

For those scouring the record books for omens, the Croatia crunch marked the anniversary of the start of England's campaign in '66, when they drew 0-0 with Uruguay at Wembley. The hope was July 11 would be another date to remember. It is now, but for the wrong reasons.

Croatia indicated intent with Marcelo Brozovic preferred to the more attacking Andrej Kramaric, freeing up skipper Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic to press further into the final third.

But it was Modric who gave away a free-kick for a foul on Dele Alli in a dangerous position around 25 yards out and Trippier curled home right-footed over the wall, with goalkeeper Danijel Subasic struggling to react, as England made a dream start.

Harry Maguire, who scored a majestic header against Sweden, nodded a Trippier corner wide, but referee Cuneyt Kacar did England a favour when Perisic's shot took a deflection off Kyle Walker's heel and flew past a post – but no corner was given.

It was Tottenham v Liverpool as Harry Kane, with six goals in the tournament, went up against Dejan Lovren, a contest that has seen the Three Lions' captain dominant on the domestic stage in England. Lovren made sure Kane knew he was around with a robust challenge which earned the centre-back a ticking-off from the Turkish official.

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

CONTACT CLIVE VIA FREELIONS@FSF.ORG.UK

But Kane was agonisingly close to extending England's lead on the half-hour. Jesse Lingard played him in on goal, but Subasic saved the initial effort. Kane kept it alive and hit the near post from a tight angle before the ball ricocheted off the keeper to safety.

Lingard wasted an inviting opening in the 36th minute when the Manchester United man found himself unmarked in the middle but couldn't wrap his foot around his finish and shot wide.

As the teams headed for the tunnel at half-time, Lovren complained to the referee that he was hauled down in the box by Maguire at a free-kick. There was a VAR check but, rightly, nothing doing.

Lovren had to make a vital clearance to deny the diving Kane as he attempted to get his head to Trippier's tremendous right-wing delivery.

And England were unfortunate not to be awarded a penalty when Raheem Sterling looked to be tripped by Domagoj Vida as he homed in on goal.

Walker took one for the team to block Perisic's piledriver, but the England defender was then beaten by the same player. Sime Vrsaljko hoisted a cross in from the right and Perisic's outstretched leg connected with the ball rather than Walker's head and keeper Jordan Pickford had no hope.



All of a sudden, it was a different game and Perisic hit a post soon afterwards as England reeled. Mandzukic stung Pickford's hands before Perisic lifted the ball over an unguarded goal when the keeper came out to punch clear.

But it was extra-time for the third game running for Croatia, and the second occasion for England at this competition.

Trippier's corner was met by the head of John Stones, but Vrsaljko was on the far post to nod off the line. Pickford made a brave save on the six-yard line to foil Mandzukic, who felt the full force of the challenge.

But Mandzukic was too quick for Stones when he seized on Perisic's looping header to steer the ball across Pickford and into the far corner of the net to complete a turnaround that was terminal for England's hopes.

SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS WORLD CUP MUSIC QUIZ

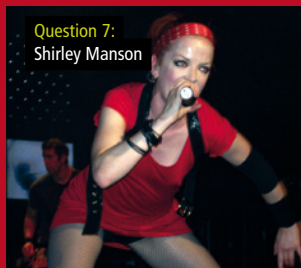
TO celebrate this quite remarkable World Cup campaign, the quizmaster legend who is Scouse Phil - and who has reliably supplied us with entertainment all the way through to the final weekend - has prepared us a quiz where every question, or answer, or indeed both, contain the word 'world'.

1 What was the title of New Order's England World Cup song in 1990, which featured an infamous John Barnes rap sequence?

2 Which famous British rock group were 'Rocking All Over The World' in 1977 and had various other hits including, 'Whatever You Want' and 'Down Down'?

3 Which mod group fronted by Paul Weller also had hits in 1977 with the songs, 'Modern World' and 'All Around The World'?

4 Lisa Stansfield also had a hit entitled 'All Around The World' which got to Number One in 1989,



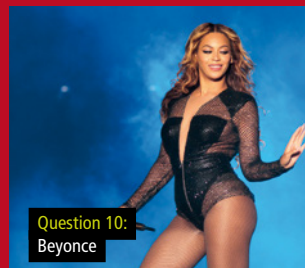
Question 7:
Shirley Manson

but in which north west town was she born: Oldham, Rochdale or Wigan?

5 Released in 1985, 'We Are The World', performed by USA For Africa, was the American equivalent of which famous UK charity single?

6 Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith formed which band which had Top Three hits with 'Mad World' in 1982 and 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World' in 1985?

7 For which 1999 Bond film did Shirley Manson, lead singer of Garbage, sing the theme tune?



Question 10:
Beyonce

8 'That's great! It starts with an earthquake, birds and snakes and aeroplane, Lenny Bruce is not afraid' are the opening lines of which 1991 R.E.M. hit?

9 What is the name of the American rock band who had various hits including 'The Middle' in 2001: 'Jenny Eat World', 'Jimmy Eat World' or 'Johnny Eat World'?

10 'Run The World (Girls)' was a 2011 hit for Beyonce, but with which girl band did she first find fame?

Answers can be found on [page 16](#)

Join the Football Supporters' Federation



THIS edition of Free Lions and the fans' embassy in St Petersburg marks the end of the FSF's activity at the 2018 World Cup.

We have been in Russia since June 15th, and the last month has been a blast: we have, for the most part, thoroughly enjoyed being part of England's presence at the tournament, and we hope we've

have been of some value to you all. We'll be back at the next England away game (well, anyone featuring away fans, at least).

The FSF won't however be idle in the meantime; we will continue to campaign on all issues of interest to football supporters throughout the pyramid. Top of the agenda for the coming season will be our "Stand

Up For Choice" campaign to legalise standing at matches in the top tiers of the game.

All of our campaigns depend on the support and involvement of our members, so if you haven't already, why not join?

Membership is free: see www.fsf.org.uk for details.

SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS FOOTBALL QUIZ



Question 1:
Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi

1 World Cup host city Sochi is twinned with which English town, which is home to a League Two team and a famous racecourse?

2 Who is the youngest player in England's World Cup squad?

3 ...and who is the oldest?

4 England's Group G and which other group had two teams in the quarter-finals of this tournament?

5 Of the 11 goal-scorers in the quarter-finals, whose surname came first alphabetically?

6 What was the score after 90 minutes in the 1966 World Cup final?

7 World Cup Willy was the mascot for that tournament, but what sort of animal was he?

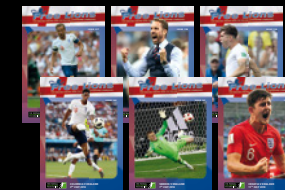
8 England managed to score a measly total of two goals at the 2014 World Cup Finals. Can you name the two players who scored those goals?

9 Which team, who appeared in these finals, won England's group that year, winning all three of their matches?

10 I was born in Cheltenham in 1994 and am in this England squad. I played 27 times earlier in my career for Sporting Lisbon and am the grandson of Ted Croker, former secretary of the FA. Who am I?

Free Lions BACK ISSUES

World Cup Free Lions Back Copies Available



A NUMBER of you have been asking at the FSF's fans' embassy whether we have any spare copies of editions of Free Lions distributed at previous games. Well, we always do our best to satisfy demand, but there is a limit to the amount of luggage the airlines will allow us to take from city to city.

All is not lost, however. We are going to make sure that we have enough copies to satisfy demand back at home, so if for some reason you're missing an issue from your collection, you'll be able to order one from the FSF office, for the cost only of postage and packing.

If you're a regular reader and collector of Free Lions, you could also consider taking out a subscription to the magazine. For just £10 a year, you will get every edition mailed to your home address (after the trip) in pristine condition.

For details of subscriptions and individual orders, see the FSF website at www.fsf.org.uk.

WELCOME TO SAINT PETERSBURG

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE

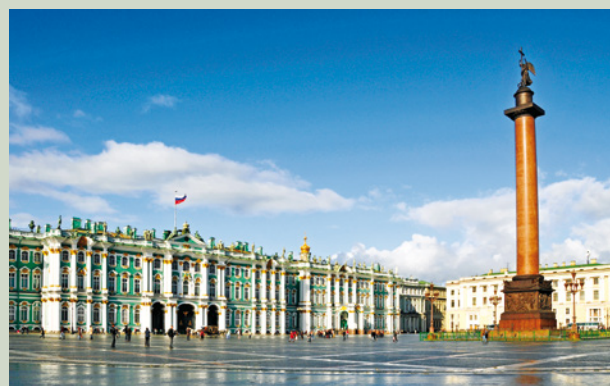


city was not founded until 1703 by Peter the Great and, despite its relative youth, it is packed full of culture and photogenic architecture.

The city sprawls outwards from its centre - a UNESCO World Heritage site with many streets worth a visit in their own right - into a stunning collection of islands split by channels and reconnected by some 800 bridges.

Nowadays **Saint Petersburg** is Russia's second city, but it was not always so revered and during World War Two was bombed heavily. Despite its relatively short history it has experienced a number of name changes, including **Petrograd** and **Leningrad**, and for a period of 200 years it was, in fact, Russia's capital.

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the city has flourished into the jewel in Russia's crown and tourists flock to see it from all over the world; some five million every single year.



THROUGH gritted teeth and attempting a smile, we welcome you to **Saint Petersburg**.

A semi-final tie was beyond many of our expectations for this tournament, but having fallen just short of reaching a World Cup final it is impossible not to feel disappointed.

So now we face a rematch of our Group G decider against Belgium and another opportunity, presumably, to watch our reserves play theirs in what is likely to be a lowkey and friendly atmosphere on Saturday evening.

The silver lining of this seventh - if unwanted - game is the opportunity to visit **Saint Petersburg**. Widely regarded as Russia's most beautiful city, it has proved a popular base for supporters during the tournament. The England team have, in fact, been situated in nearby **Repino** for the duration of the World Cup. While we would all be hoping to

visit in cheerier circumstances, the timing of our stay here showcases the city at its best.

Situated on the banks of the **Neva River** at the edge of the **Baltic Sea**, you can expect more than 18 hours of sunlight a day at this time of year, making **Saint Petersburg's** already spectacular landscape even more stunning.

Although settlements in the area date back thousands of years, the

>> WHAT TO EXPECT

District: Northwest Russia
Population: 5,200,000
Time Zone: BST +2 hours
Average July Temp.: 23°/14°
Area: 1,439km²
From London: 705km

>> FAN FEST



Saint Petersburg's Fan Fest is located at **Konyushennaya Square** with a 15,000 capacity.

>> WORLD CUP STADIUMS

All stadiums used during the 2018 FIFA World Cup have an information desk - including lost and found help, pushchair storage and an opportunity to leave feedback - a left luggage facility (on the provision of a match ticket), entertainment, food and drink, ATMs and official tournament gift shops.

>> THE STADIUM



THE **Saint Petersburg Stadium** is located on **Krestovsky Island** and has a capacity of 64,000. It is home to Russian Premier League side **Zenit Saint Petersburg**, a name well-known to us from their frequent appearances in European competitions.

Their finest hour came on English soil when they defeated Rangers at the Etihad Stadium to lift the UEFA Cup in 2008.

It was Zenit who welcomed FC Ural for the venue's opening game last year, with former Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic scoring the first goal there.

Work actually began on the venue back in 2007, but there were multiple issues with funding and

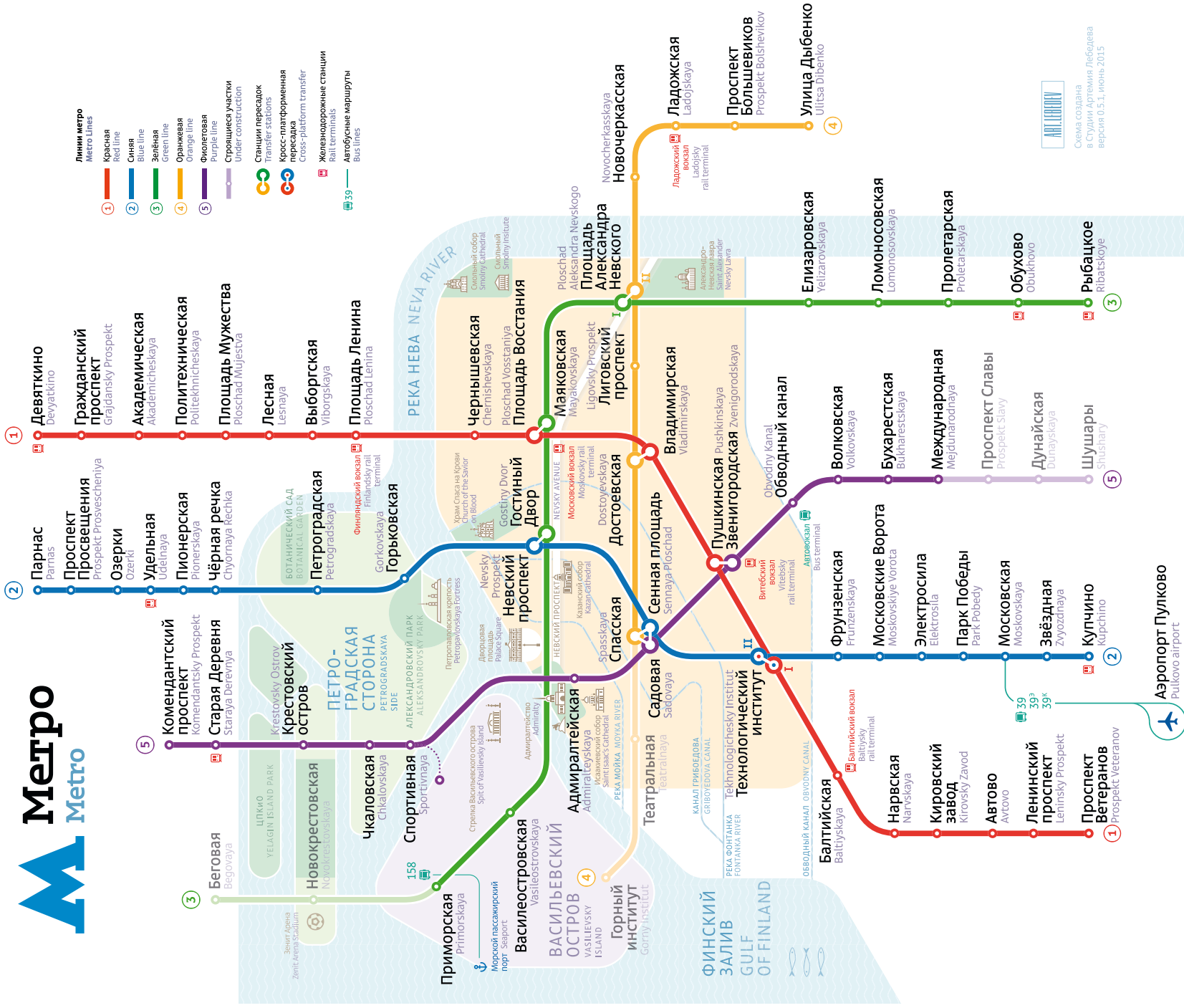
construction that lead to delays in development, not uncommon in this part of the world as those of us who saw Dynamo's stadium in Moscow will attest.

Last summer it staged the Confederations Cup Final where Germany beat Chile and by the end of this tournament it will have hosted seven World Cup games, including Tuesday's semi-final in which our opponents, Belgium, were defeated by France.

The stadium is equipped with a retractable roof which, when closed, means the stadium can be temperature controlled. The temperature control system was used during Celtic FC's visit in the 2018 Europa League. Given the time of year and climate, however, we are unlikely to require it.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hitler planned to hold a celebratory invasion banquet in the Hotel Astoria.
- The Hermitage Museum's 70 cats protect its artwork from rodents.



WELCOME TO SAINT PETERSBURG

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



GETTING TO THE GROUND



LOCATED on the site of the former **Kirov Stadium**, the ground is around 7km from central Saint Petersburg and is best accessed by bus or metro.

The two closest metro stops to the stadium are:

- **Novokrestovskaya** (Line 3, green)
- **Krestovsky Ostrov** (Line 5, purple).

The former is around a quarter of an hour walk, the latter runs through the centre and is on the same line as the ticket collection centre, though it is slightly further from the ground: 20-30 minutes by foot.

There are a number of shuttle buses running to the stadium on match days. As in Moscow these take various routes, some leaving from the airport and others from locations across the city.

The main ones you're likely to use on a matchday are listed here, all of which run three hours before the game to three hours after:

- **Shuttle S2: Ploschad Vosstaniya metro** - stadium
- **Shuttle S3: Petrogradskaya metro** - stadium
- **Shuttle S4: Vyborgskaya metro** - stadium
- **Shuttle S10: Pulkovo Airport** - stadium

By bus you will need to disembark at **Ulitsa Yakhtennaya**. This is a 25-minute walk from the stadium and is serviced by the following buses: 101, 101A, 110, 134A, 134W, 170, 211, 216, 32 and 93. Trams 19 and 48 also stop here.

However, many of these do not get you very close to the stadium due to its island location, so you may still require a bus or metro from your stopping point.

TICKET COLLECTION

ALL ticket centres are open Monday to Sunday 10:00-20:00 (21:00 on match days with late kickoffs).

- **Prospekt Dobrolyubova, 20** Use the **Sportivnaya** transport hub. Line 5 (purple) on the metro system.
- **Pulkovo Airport**, Terminal 1, arrivals area.



If you have the credit or debit card you booked with, you will be able to use the automated machines. If not, you'll need to take your passport and booking number to the manned desks. In both cases, the lead booker can pick up all of the tickets in the group.

A photograph of the person picking up tickets will be taken, but experience tells us facial recognition software is not being used, this is nothing more than FIFA capturing an image of who collected the tickets in case of later dispute.



GETTING AROUND

THERE are a number of ways to travel around **Saint Petersburg**. None of the options comprehensively cover the whole urban area, but between them you should have no difficulty getting around.

- **Metro:** There may not be many centrally located stops but the metro is still an effective and popular system. Running between 05:30-01:00, with 67 stations spread across five lines, it is useful for reaching the suburbs and visiting landmarks in **Saint Petersburg**.

Announcements are only made in Russian but you will find certain maps and station signs in English. This will be in addition to the signage added for the World Cup. A single fare is R45, with stations identifiable by the large letter 'M'.

After our first trip to **Moscow** - for Colombia in the **Spartak Stadium** - a number of England fans suggested it would be useful if Free Lions printed a metro map, which we did for our semi-final against Croatia. Similarly, we have also provided you with a copy of the **Saint Petersburg** metro map in this edition, you can find it on the preceding spread.

- **Travel cards:** Can be purchased from ticket offices inside metro stations around the city and generally offer better rates than



buying individual tickets. Using a travel card a metro journey will cost you R36, with any above ground transport costing no more than R31 per fare.

- **Buses, Marshrutkas, Trams and Trolleybuses:** The central area houses most of the trolleybus and bus routes, with the latter also expanding further afield such as to the airport. Trams are less common but are useful in the uptown.

Bus stops are marked by 'A', an 'M' for trolleybuses and for trams a 'T' will hang from the wires above. The fare on any of these services is R40, unless using a travel card.

Alternatively you can board a marshrutka. These run in many areas apart from along **Nevsky Prospekt**. Fares are around R45.

- **Commuter Trains:** These electric train services cover short distances

and many routes into the suburbs. Trains run until midnight and are typically reliable.

- **Bike:** Those wanting to cycle will find hire spots across **Saint Petersburg**. This is commonly done through **Velogorod** and, like 'Boris Bikes', can be picked up and deposited in differing locations. A day costs around R130, but you must be pre-registered.

- **Boat:** The **Meteor** hydrofoil runs on the tourist route from **the Hermitage** to **Peterhof**. This reaches speeds of 70km/h on the 40 minute trip. You will make a saving buying a return ticket.

- **Taxi:** Cabs are identifiable by a chequered sign on the vehicle's roof. We would advise booking or calling a taxi in advance and agreeing a set fee for a journey rather than hailing one. You can expect to pay around R30 per kilometre.

WELCOME TO SAINT PETERSBURG

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE

EATING AND DRINKING



WHEN dining in Saint Petersburg you will find prices more akin to Moscow than Samara and Volgograd. Food and drink is pretty expensive, but tends to be excellent quality. Even in central locations, eateries often offer lunch deals allowing you to sample fine cuisine at reasonable rates.

If you're seeing the sights and just want a light lunch, **Soup Vino** offers a selection of fresh salads and soups, with an option to take away.

Marketplace is a canteen open 08:00-18:00 serving a range of polish dishes. Meals at both are around R300-400 and are within walking distance of the **Nevsky Prospekt** metro. The area is rich

in other food outlets, including a number of street food places with reasonable prices. At the other end of the spectrum are more substantial meals with similarly substantial prices: **MiX** offers French dishes for around R2,000 a meal, though set menus may be more reasonable and at **Na Zdorovye**, fine dining is combined with vodka.

Some restaurants may serve bear meat, but beware tourist traps (never frequented by locals) claiming to serve this.

Unsurprisingly, the city is well covered for Russian cuisine. Uzbek and Tajik food in particular are readily available and usually cheap. For meals priced at around R250, try inside the **Sennoy Market**.

Georgian restaurants are popular, as they are elsewhere in Russia, dishing up a mixture of meats, breads and salads at slightly higher prices; we've now overdosed.

For a drink you may want to try the **Dickens Pub** or the **Tower Pub**. Both have a range of imported and domestic drinks, and the Tower boasts lengthy opening hours and English speaking staff.

Alternatively, a large drinking scene can be found along the streets of **Dumskaya Ulitsa** (pictured above is the trade and art centre on Dumskaya) and **Ulitsa Lomonosova**.

The city has a growing LGBT+ scene. **The Central Station** and **Golubaya Ustritsa** are clubs open until 06:00.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

MANY of Saint Petersburg's major attractions are situated centrally, many within walking distance. The city offers a stunning combination of marvellous buildings and world famous museums nestled amongst its waterways, an exploration in themselves.

World renowned museums don't get much bigger than the **Hermitage Museum**. Literally. Artwork from a collection of over three million pieces is displayed throughout hundreds of rooms. Closed on Mondays it is otherwise open 10:30-18:00, and until 21:00 on Wednesdays. Entry is R400, or free with a student ID. The museum's impressive buildings house the work of Leonardo Da Vinci and Picasso, the pick of these being 'the Winter Palace'.

Away from the **Hermitage Museum** and its surroundings, the city's superb architecture continues. One of the most exuberant is the

18th Century **Church of Spilled Blood**, or, if we are talking lavish, then **St Isaac's Cathedral** dominates the skyline with its golden dome. They can be visited for R400 and R250 respectively. St Isaac's also offers a view of the city, if you are prepared to climb its 262 steps.

Another popular spot is the **Nesky Prospekt** (below) arguably the city's most iconic street. Along its four miles you will find countless restaurants and shops. It proves a good viewing place for other sights of **Saint Petersburg** including the **Cathedral of Our Lady Kazan**.

Of the city's Islands, **Vasilevski** is the biggest. Here you will find a selection of monuments and a good spot to bask in the summer sun beside the **Neva River**.

If you are hunting for something more relaxing than sightseeing tours are readily available along the canals, or, in the evening, visit the **Mariinsky Theatre** and enjoy the ballet or opera.



THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN RUSSIA

CONSULAR staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are available to help fans where they can, and will be present in all the cities hosting England games while we're here.

To contact them for consular assistance (for instance if you lose your passport): ring +7 495 956 7200 – or of course you can contact us at the fans' embassy, and we'll put you in touch.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY CAN

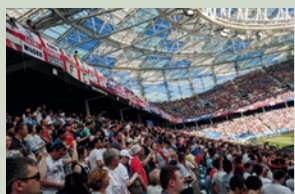
- Provide info on transferring money from the UK
- Help you get medical attention if you need it
- Contact your friends & family
- Put you in touch with lawyers if you need them
- Issue a replacement travel document (may be subject to a fee)
- Contact you within 24 hours of being in hospital/prison

THE BRITISH EMBASSY CANNOT

- Pay your hotel, legal, medical or any other bills
- Investigate a crime
- Make travel arrangements for you
- Give you legal advice
- Get you out of jail
- Get you a ticket for the final!

WORLD CUP GROUND RULES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



AS is usually the case at any FIFA World Cup, there are standard rules and regulations that are intended to apply at all tournament venues, and this has generally been the case around all the Russia 2018 stadiums. Nonetheless, there are still variations in how strictly various aspects of the rules are enforced from venue to venue, and we will be doing our best to establish what applies locally in each of the stadiums we visit.

For all games, the stadium will open three hours before kick-off. Every ticket is marked with the number of a gate. It seems that most stadiums will allow ticket holders to enter via any gate, however it is worth being aware that in some cases (e.g. France v Australia game in Kazan), entry was only permitted via the gate marked on the ticket. Bear in mind that the perimeters around the stadiums are in some cases very long, even between

gates with the next consecutive number, so allow extra time in case you are re-directed to a different gate.

Security checks are thorough. On arrival, every fan must be in possession of a match ticket, and your own FAN ID. The steward at the turnstiles will scan and check both your FAN ID (to prove your identity – your photo will appear on a screen) and your ticket (to establish that you have a genuine ticket for that game. There is no link between the ticket and the FAN ID, so it doesn't matter if you're using a ticket that wasn't originally issued to you; the FAN ID though is very much person-specific.

Bags bigger than about the size of an A4 sheet of paper are not allowed into the stadium; any larger and you can be turned back from the turnstile and sent to the luggage deposit cabin to drop it off for collection after the match. Queues for these facilities have been very long, with waits of over an hour, and be warned, they fill up quickly. If you're in any doubt you'd be wise to allow yourself plenty of time ahead of kick-off.

After passing through the turnstiles, you will pass through airport-style scanners – pockets must be emptied,

jewellery and belts removed before passing through the scanner, and you will be asked to switch on any phones or cameras to prove that they are functioning devices.

The usual list of prohibited items applies – more details can be found at welcome2018.com. Flags are allowed if they do not exceed the size of 2m x 1.5m. Anything larger than this requires a special application certificate, which needs to have been applied for 20 days prior to the match. All flags will be checked for content to exclude any racist, political, discriminatory or inflammatory material.

Smoking inside the ground is strictly forbidden, with some stadiums rigorously enforcing the rule. Alcohol is on sale, with Budweiser at 350R a can. Soft drinks are all R200, and snacks are also available, including burgers and hotdogs priced at R300.



WELCOME to our last look at social media with Wordnerds, a UK startup that uses Artificial Intelligence to summarise what fans are saying about England on Twitter. Here's the latest from 1,000,000+ tweets, up to and including the Sweden quarter-final.

England's back line received rave reviews, but the Twitterati are still concerned about the attacking midfield. Jordan Pickford, Harry Maguire, John Stones and Kieran Trippier were all overwhelming popular before, during and after the quarter final. Over 90% of the mentions about each player were in a positive context.

In keeper Pickford's case, 98% of tweets about him were in a positive context. This is a big turnaround for a player most commonly described as "shaky" after the final group game against Belgium. After Sweden, the most commonly used terms about Pickford were "immense", "outstanding" and "Golden Gloves".

Overall, this week was the most positive according to the fans, with two thirds of tweets about England players positive in their outlook. But questions remain about the attacking midfield. Dele Alli's goal did not save him from criticism, with many fans asking if he was even awake, and Raheem Sterling received wide-ranging stick for missed chances against the Swedes.

NO SURPRISES

WORDNERDS' TWITTER ANALYSIS

#	Player	% +ve	Most Common Words
1	Jordan Pickford	98%	motm, immense, golden glove, outstanding
2	Harry Maguire	95%	statues, aerial duels, beast, slab head
3	John Stones	92%	hard, that tackle by, fancy, immense
4	Kieran Trippier	91%	different gravy, revelation, consistent
5	Marcus Rashford	89%	would have buried that, bring him on
6	Jordan Henderson	83%	pirlo, proved me wrong, leader, fitness
7	Harry Kane	81%	almighty, ben, unselfish, lifting the trophy
8	Jesse Lingard	77%	dancer, baller, accuracy, anonymous
9	Ashley Young	62%	assists, birthday boy, corner, superb
10	Fabian Delph	59%	birth, rather, lad, wife's a machine
11	Kyle Walker	56%	reaction to the goal, cb, drop, classy
12	Eric Dier	44%	rumours, alongside henderson, penalty
13	Dele Alli	33%	is he awake, arrived, oscar, fortnite
14	Raheem Sterling	14%	anxiety, stressing me out, cursed, bottle

Captain Harry Kane had a quieter week, although he received a great deal of praise for reaching out to Ben, a boy who is recovering from a brain tumour. Elsewhere, Jordan Henderson was compared (only slightly tongue-in-cheek) to Andrea Pirlo, Kieran Trippier was described as "different gravy", and several fans picked up on Fabian Delph's description of his wife as "an absolute machine" after returning from seeing the birth of his daughter.

But the praise of Southgate was particularly heartfelt: "We've performed social listening in a wide variety of contexts" said Wordnerds' Steve Erdal, "and we've hardly ever seen a more

uniformly positive response to anything. Gareth Southgate really has captured the imagination of everyone back home. People have been clamouring for all kinds of honours for him, from a knighthood to renaming the Southgate Tube Station."

"But we did also enjoy seeing some old memes still refusing to leave the public perception of the England Manager. Anyone remember Gareth Southgate Badger?"

wordnerds

For more information:
www.wordnerds.eu

Answers

1. World in Motion
2. Status Quo
3. The Jam
4. Rochdale
5. Do They Know It's Christmas?
6. Tears for Fears
7. The World is Not Enough
8. It's The End Of The World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)
9. Jimmy Eat World
10. Destiny's Child



THE GAME NOBODY WANTS

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON

BELGIUM'S "Golden Generation" had to settle for a World Cup third place play-off and remained here in St Petersburg, where they face a rematch with England.

The Belgians, who beat Gareth Southgate's side 1-0 with an Adnan Januzaj goal in their Group G encounter in Kaliningrad, lost to France by the same scoreline in the opening semi-final – their first defeat in 25 games after a seven-match winning run.

Barcelona centre-back Samuel Umtiti headed a 51st-minute winner, beating Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini at the near post to meet Antoine Griezmann's right-wing corner.

But, once again, Paris St Germain star Kylian Mbappe was the player who had people talking, among them Alan Shearer. Speaking on the BBC, the former Newcastle striker said: "It was a very tight game. There were some huge performances for France. Mbappe, with his touch, technique, intelligence and pace, was everything you want from a forward. He showed such maturity, knowing when to pass, when to run and when to hold on to the ball.

"But, as well as giving him a great mention, there were other performances from Raphael Varane, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Blaise Matuidi and Umtiti. They did the ugly side of the game. When they

had to dig in, when they had to defend and put their bodies on the line, those guys were there and it was a magnificent performance."

Shearer added: "Once France scored, they gave a great performance in keeping things tight, being organised and getting men behind the ball. It just didn't work out for Belgium. Yes, they got one or two balls into the box and went a little bit more direct, but then Fellaini went to the left side so they lost that in terms of being direct.

"You have to give France credit because they stopped Belgium. We mentioned Kevin De Bruyne, Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku, and even Fellaini. Well, France had the answer to all of them."

Shearer's fellow ex-England skipper Rio Ferdinand said: "Yes, Mbappe was great, but I think Pogba showed why he cost so much money (a minimum £89million). His discipline, which he's been called out for before, seems to have come into play. He seems to have an understanding about his game and has shown maturity

throughout the tournament. He's grown and grown."

For France, World Cup winners against Brazil in 1998 and final losers to Italy in 2006, it was a sixth semi-final in the competition.

Belgium's only major final was in the 1980 European Championships, where they were beaten by West Germany. Their one other World Cup semi-final was a 2-0 loss to winners Argentina in 1986, when a certain Diego Maradona grabbed (no hands) both goals.

History was on the side of the French in meetings between the neighbouring nations at major tournaments – they have now won all four, three in the World Cup.

Matuidi returned in midfield for France after suspension and replaced Corentin Tolisso, who stood in for the win over Uruguay. But Belgium, having claimed the scalp of favourites Brazil, were hit by a ban for right wing-back Thomas Meunier, so coach Roberto Martinez shuffled his pack with Tottenham's Mousa Dembele

>> CLIVE'S VERDICT

We meet again, alas, as England face Belgium in the third-place play-off. The Three Lions have been here before, losing to hosts Italy to finish fourth in 1990. This is the game nobody wants to play in, and both sides will

Prediction: Belgium 2 England 3

still be feeling deflated by their failure to reach the final. Belgium beat England 1-0 in Group G, in a game between under-strength sides. This one could go either way, but I think England can even the score and come out winners.

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

CONTACT CLIVE VIA FREELIONS@FSF.ORG.UK

>> BELGIUM – THE KEY THREE by Joe Hetherington



KEVIN DE BRUYNE

More of a goal-threat than Germany's Toni Kroos and more consistent than France's Paul Pogba, there is a genuine case that De Bruyne can be considered the best central midfielder in the world today. Incredibly, he played only three league games for Chelsea before being sold to Wolfsburg for a bargain price of £18million in 2014. Bought by Manchester City for £55m in 2015, the midfielder has become an integral member of Pep Guardiola's team. In this tournament, the 27-year-old has played quite deep at times and has scored one goal, a fantastic strike against Brazil in the quarter-final.



ROMELU LUKAKU

Another player sold by Chelsea, Lukaku has scored at least 20 goals in each of his last four seasons in the Premier League. Despite his impressive scoring rate, many have accused him of being a flat-track bully for the number of goals he scores against lowly opposition at both club and international level. The 25-year-old has played for four clubs in England: Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion, Everton and Manchester United, his current side. Lukaku is one of only a few who can rival Harry Kane for the Golden Boot – the Belgian has four goals and registered one assist.



EDEN HAZARD

The skilful, tricky forward is just as dangerous on the wing as he is moving inside. Having made his international debut in 2008, the 27-year-old helped Belgium transform from a team that was struggling to qualify for tournaments to realistic contenders to win the World Cup. Hazard left Lille for Chelsea in 2012 for around £32million and has won the Premier League on two occasions. With the exception of the 2015-16 season, in which he only managed to score four times in the league as champions Chelsea imploded, Belgium's captain has proved to be an exciting talent for his clubs and his country.

coming into midfield and West Brom's ex-Spurs man Nacer Chadli dropping into a right-back role.

Belgium bossed matters in the early stages, but France were always dangerous on the break with the searing pace of sensation Mbappe – still only 19 – and they gradually grew into the game.

Chelsea's Hazard was Belgium's main menace, dragging a shot just wide on the quarter-hour after a deft touch from De Bruyne, and then producing a fierce hit that was deflected over by the head of Varane. Centre-back Toby Alderweireld

surprised the French with a shot on the turn that was met with a marvellous save from Tottenham teammate Hugo Lloris.

France striker Olivier Giroud has not managed a shot on target at this World Cup and he showed why when he skewed a great chance wide from Mbappe's centre. Thierry Henry, France's World Cup-winning striker, was sitting alongside Martinez in his role as Belgium's Number Two. It was the sort of opportunity Henry would have buried.

Benjamin Pavard, the Stuttgart right-back being linked with Man.

City, was played in by Mbappe, Chelsea keeper Thibaut Courtois making a fine save. But France were soon ahead after the interval and could have been further in front when Giroud was denied by Dembele's block, the chance coming courtesy of an impudent back-heel from Mbappe.

Fellaini met a thumping header that flew wide and Lloris beat away a stinging strike by Axel Witsel, but France had two opportunities to make the margin of victory more emphatic when Courtois saved from Griezmann and Tolisso.

SQUAD LISTS



BELGIUM

GOALKEEPERS:

1. Thibaut **COURTOIS** (Chelsea)
12. Simon **MIGNOLET** (Liverpool)
13. Koen **CASTEELS** (Wolfsburg)

DEFENDERS:

2. Toby **ALDERWEIRELD** (Tottenham Hotspur)
3. Thomas **VERMAELEN** (Barcelona)
4. Vincent **KOMPANY** (Manchester City)
5. Jan **VERTONGHEN** (Tottenham Hotspur)
15. Thomas **MEUNIER** (Paris Saint-Germain)
20. Dedryck **BOYATA** (Celtic)

MIDFIELDERS:

6. Axel **WITSEL** (Tianjin Quanjian)
7. Kevin **DE BRUYNE** (Manchester City)
8. Marouane **FELLAINI** (Manchester United)
11. Yannick **CARRASCO** (Dalian Yifang)
17. Youri **TIELEMANS** (Monaco)
18. Adnan **JANUZAJ** (Real Sociedad)
19. Mousa **DEMBÉLÉ** (Tottenham Hotspur)
22. Nacer **CHADLI** (West Bromwich Albion)
23. Leander **DENDONCKER** (Anderlecht)

FORWARDS:

9. Romelu **LUKAKU** (Manchester United)
10. Eden **HAZARD** (Chelsea)
14. Dries **MERTENS** (Napoli)
16. Thorgan **HAZARD**
(Borussia Mönchengladbach)
21. Michy **BATSHUAYI** (Chelsea)



ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS:

1. Jordan **PICKFORD** (Everton)
13. Jack **BUTLAND** (Stoke City)
23. Nick **POPE** (Burnley)

DEFENDERS:

2. Kyle **WALKER** (Manchester City)
3. Danny **ROSE** (Tottenham Hotspur)
5. John **STONES** (Manchester City)
6. Harry **MAGUIRE** (Leicester City)
12. Kieran **TRIPPIER** (Tottenham Hotspur)
15. Gary **CAHILL** (Chelsea)
16. Phil **JONES** (Manchester United)
17. Fabian **DELPH** (Manchester City)
18. Ashley **YOUNG** (Manchester United)
22. Trent **ALEXANDER-ARNOLD** (Liverpool)

MIDFIELDERS:

4. Eric **DIER** (Tottenham Hotspur)
7. Jesse **LINGARD** (Manchester United)
8. Jordan **HENDERSON** (Liverpool)
20. Dele **ALLI** (Tottenham Hotspur)
21. Ruben **LOFTUS-CHEEK** (Chelsea)

FORWARDS:

9. Harry **KANE** (Tottenham Hotspur)
10. Raheem **STERLING** (Manchester City)
11. Jamie **VARDY** (Leicester City)
14. Danny **WELBECK** (Arsenal)
19. Marcus **RASHFORD** (Manchester United)



ONE TO WATCH

KEVIN DE BRUYNE – probably won't play